(b) whether any action has been taken by Government thereon;

(c) if so, the proposal contemplated by Government to revive the mills; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Dakeswari Cotton Mills Ltd. (DCML), approached IDBI in 1992 for seeking financial assistance for setting up a new spinning mill with capacity of 25440 spindles, utilizing the existing infrastructure and buildings of the unit at Suryanagar, Asansol.

(b) to (d) The proposal did not meet the financial institution's norms and was not considered support worthy. This decision was conveyed to the Company by IDBI in 1993.

Development of Inland Waterways Transport

*453. SHRI BARATIN SENGUPTA:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a comprehensive and systematic approach to evaluate the viability of Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) for its faster development;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c) Viability of IWT on important waterways has been studied and based on the studies, three Waterways have been declared as National Waterways for efficient shipping and navigation activities. Recommendations of the FICCI are mainly for fiscal concession and other incentives which are under active consideration of the Government.

Allocation of Fund From Central Road Fund to Maharashtra

*454. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and the financial condition of Central Road Fund (CRF);

(b) the guide-lines for allocation of the share for different States and Union Territories from this fund;

(c) the share of Maharashtra from CRF during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the reasons for allocating lesser funds to Maharashtra compared to other State; and

(e) the position of Maharashtra so far as National Highways are concerned, *vis-a-vis* other States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Central Road Fund (CRF) is a non-lapsing fund and is governed by an old resolution of Parliament whereby an amount not less than 3.5 paise per litre out of the duty of custom & excise levied on motor spirit, is set apart and the proceeds thereof have to be applied for the purpose of road development.

(b) The fund is allocated to various states in proportion to the consumption of motor spirit in the respective states as well as schemes sanctioned and availability of funds.

(c) The funds allocated to Maharashtra from CRF during the last 3 years are as under:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	1100.00
1995-96	172.00
1996-97	62.00